



Transition Adviser – Case Studies

	<p>Name:</p> <p>The best way to predict your future is to create it.</p> <p>Abraham Lincoln</p>
<p>School: Pittwater High School</p> 	<p>Pittwater High is comprehensive and co-educational school with approximately 1000 students and 85 staff, located in Mona Vale at the northern end of Sydney's Northern Beaches. It is bounded by the Pittwater waterway with some students living on Scotland and other islands, and within walking distance of the beach. It has an established reputation for academic, cultural and sporting excellence with a tradition of outstanding achievement in musical performance and sailing (ex-student receiving a silver medal in Rio Olympics). Facilities are well resourced and maintained and include a multi-purpose centre, tennis courts, networked computer laboratories, a large oval and playing fields, and specialist facilities for hospitality, agriculture and horticulture.</p> <p>Generally the families are from higher socio-economic groups, with some from lower social groups. There is a large opportunity for employment in Hospitality with many restaurants and cafes in the vicinity. Travel to the city takes approximately 60 minutes by bus, so this opens up many employment opportunities to students. Northern Beaches TAFE is approximately 30 minutes away, and Macquarie University has a direct bus from Mona Vale available. Most students gain either further training or employment after leaving school.</p>
<p>My primary role(s) in the school</p>	<p>Head Teacher Secondary Studies, Head Teacher Vocational Education, Peninsula Community of Schools Coordinator and TAS Teacher.</p>
<p>I was trained as TA in... what year?</p>	<p>2015</p>
<p>My role as Transition Adviser: include if you work in a team approach and the impact of working this way. Who are the targeted students?</p>	<p>An alternative senior Non-Atar pathway called Options Plus was created in 2015 where students could complete an HSC with no exams. This was successfully promoted to students and parents with the first year of the program graduating in 2017. Data was analysed based on Year 10 reports, NAPLAN results, Year advisor and teacher comments then students were targeted. This allows the students to study Vocational Educational courses and / or TAFE, work studies, School Based Apprenticeships and Traineeships (SBATS), English and Maths Studies. This pathway has helped engage all students across the school in class and also improved attendance.</p>

	I have also been working with the Careers Advisor to implement a Project Based Learning initiative where Year 10 students investigate a career and prepare their own Career Expo for Year 9 students.
My major achievements in this role: Outline what activity or activities has/have most benefitted your students and the school. Include if possible change in school culture / value of partnerships / connection with parents etc.	Work Studies students have been developing their business skills, making and selling goods. This term they have gained barista skills and are making coffee for staff. They will be setting up a café next term where they will bake goods and sell this with the coffee.
The challenges I have experienced: Outline not only the challenges but also strategies that enabled you to overcome the challenges.	Parents and students all thinking they "have to" get an Atar, with many students not going to university. The students all think they have to get an ATAR 'just in case'. The students' perception that these are subjects for "dummies", rather than the opportunities that they provide.
What I have learnt in this role.	What a great team of staff we have, working with many teachers from different faculties. The importance of a diverse curriculum and the opportunities that can be provided to students.
The impact of the TA initiative on the school and its community.	Ensures students across the senior school are settled as they are in courses which they are enjoying more and relate to their future career prospects.
My school's vision for the TA role into the future.	Continue current Options plus pathway, develop more community links, begin targeting Stage 5 students earlier.
Do you have a story of change/impact that the TA role has had on other developments in the school or its community? (This last question is particularly relevant to a TA who has been in position for say 2-4 years, as we are keen to document a couple of case studies over time.) Ideas might be: how the collaboration of the TA and CA has improved student services; the development and impact of a Career and Transition Team approach; executive teacher's impact on career and transition services.	
Your story: I only completed my training in October 2015; however I work closely with the Careers Advisor, Deputy Principals to improve the school links with employment and further education.	

To be completed by the Principal:

Principal Name: Renee Andrews

I have read this document provided by the Transition Adviser and support the information provided within. I understand that any changes as a result of editing and preparation for publication will be sent to me for approval prior to publication.

Signed: [Signature] Date: 22/08/16.